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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

105-6190

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

October 29, 1962

① ANTANAS LUDVICKAS IMPULVICIUS

On June 20, 1962, the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, advised the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, that ANTANAS LUDVICKAS IMPULVICIUS, INS Alien Registration Number 7 146 198, entered the United States on March 29, 1949, as a displaced person. He was born on January 28, 1907, in Panavocys, Lithuania. He resides at 304 Cross Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and is employed as a factory worker by the Krometal Manufacturing Corporation, 5013 Melrose Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

INS also advised that IMPULVICIUS' wife, BENE, born March 11, 1911, in Sedlgiai, Lithuania, and their two children, MARUTE IMPULVICIUS RABKALIS, born September 13, 1939, in Kaunas, Lithuania, and MILDA IMPULVICIUS, born April 20, 1943, in Sedlgiai, Lithuania, also entered the United States on March 29, 1949, as displaced persons.

The June 19, 1962, edition of "The Philadelphia Inquirer," a daily morning newspaper, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, reflects an article entitled, "Soviets Demand S. Phila. Man as 'War Criminal,'" which reflects in part as follows:

"The Soviet Union demanded Monday that an immigrant South Philadelphia resident be extradited on charges of mass slayings of Soviet citizens during the Second World War.

"The target of the accusation, Antanas

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"Ludvikas Impulvicus, ...

"A former major in the Lithuanian army, Impulvicus made a blanket denial of the Soviet charges, labeling them 'more of the same old propaganda.'

"And, he added, nothing will come of the extradition request. 'I think America will defend me,' Impulvicus said. . . .

"Next, the Soviet news agency, said a note had been handed the U. S. Embassy in Moscow requesting American authorities turn over Impulvicus, who was accused of 'bloody crimes against humanity.'

"The note charged that Impulvicus, as commander of a punitive battalion working under the Germans, directed the mass shootings of Soviet citizens during 1941-43.

"In July 1941, the Russians said, several thousand Jews were shot to death at the Fort/r Kaunas fortress in Lithuania. In October and November of the same year, the note charged, several thousand Soviet servicemen and citizens were killed in Byelorussia.

"The note said the slayings were done by a force under the direct command of Impulvicus, who for a time was 'Assistant commander, then commander, of a punitive battalion.'

"...Impulvicus said the charges were similar to ones that have been hurled at other Lithuanian officers in the past decade.

"In 1952, he said, Communist agents in West Berlin captured a file belonging to the 'Lithuanian Freedom Committee,' an anti-Communist group, containing names and addresses of thousands of former

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"Army officers now living in the United States, Australia and Canada.

"Since that time, Impulevicius said, he has been bombarded with almost weekly propaganda mailings from East Berlin--mostly violently anti-American newspapers.

"Impulevicius said he joined the Lithuanian Army as a cadet in 1923, and had risen to major by 1940, when the Soviet army overran his land. He was imprisoned for 9½ months and was awaiting transport to a labor camp in Siberia when the Germans pushed back the Communist forces and freed him. ...

"Then the Germans formed the Lithuanians into 'guard battalions' for sentry duties at railroad stations, hospitals and in other non-combat zones, he said. Impulevicius commanded one of these units, which served as far east as Minsk, Russia.

"But we never guarded prisoners of war, and we definitely did not shoot any civilians or captive soldiers," he said. At war's end Impulevicius, his wife, Brone, and two daughters, fled to Munich. A relative aided them in gaining entrance to the U. S. in 1949.

"Lack of ability to speak English thus far has prevented Impulevicius from gaining his citizenship. ...

"...He is secretary of the local chapter of the Lithuanian War Veterans Association.

"Impulevicius said he does not intend to take any action on the extradition request unless he is contacted by U. S. authorities.

"The Russians have billions of dollars to spend on propaganda, but I have only \$60, and the free

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"U. S. press," he said, "I am therefore not worried."

The October 11, 1962, edition of "The Philadelphia Inquirer," reflects an article entitled, "Reds 'Try' Phila. Man," which reads as follows:

"A South Philadelphia immigrant went on trial in absentia in the Lithuanian capital of Vilna on Wednesday on Soviet charges of mass atrocities during the Second World War.

"Antanas Ludvikas Impulevicius, 55, of Cross St. near Moyamensing Ave., was charged by the Russians with taking part with nine others in the mass deaths of some 50,000 civilians and prisoners of war. The others also went on trial.

"The Soviet Union has repeatedly demanded the United States return Impulevicius as a war criminal. He has denied the charges. His family said Wednesday they had not been advised of the trial."

The October 21, 1962, edition of "The Philadelphia Inquirer" reflects an article entitled, "Former Nazi Officer Living Here Ordered Shot by Red Court." It reads, in part, as follows:

"MOSCOW, Oct. 20 (AP).--Antanas Ludvikas Impulevichus, 55-year-old former major in the Lithuanian army...was sentenced in absentia Saturday to be shot on war crimes charges, Tass reported.

"Tass said the 10-day trial in Vilnius, Lithuania, 'confirmed beyond doubt that Antanas Impulevichus and eight others were guilty of killing 50,000 peaceful civilians and prisoners of war in the

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"years of World War II." ...

"In the course of the trial, it was established that Antanas Infulavichus not only issued orders to his subordinates but personally shot women, children and old people," Tass said. ...

"(In Washington, the State Department described the charges and action against Infulavichus as an old case which has been under consideration by the department. It was understood there was no plan to send Infulavichus back to Lithuania.)"

On October 9, 1962, VICTOR BARTASINS, 4931 North Cassa Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, advised the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, that INFULAVICIUS is his father-in-law.

BARTASINS advised that INFULAVICIUS was accused by anonymous sources behind the "Iron Curtain" of committing mass murder of Russians and Jews in Lithuania during approximately 1940 and 1941, while serving as a major in the Lithuanian army. BARTASINS stated a large number of unsigned letters so accusing INFULAVICIUS have been circulated throughout the Lithuanian community in Philadelphia. He stated that an almost identical letter was published in a Lithuanian language newspaper behind the "Iron Curtain." He stated a copy of this newspaper was forwarded to INFULAVICIUS through some unknown source in East Berlin.

BARTASINS furnished several clippings from Philadelphia daily newspapers concerning Russia's attempt to have his father-in-law extradited from the United States to stand trial for his alleged mass executions.

He further advised that his father-in-law was supposed to be tried in absentia in East Germany approximately two weeks ago; however, he has since heard from sources of unknown reliability that, although the trial was held, his father-in-law's name was not mentioned at the trial. He further advised that right after the alleged trial of his

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father-in-law and appearance of the information concerning it in the daily press, his father-in-law, IMPULSVICIUS, began receiving threatening phone calls, including anonymous calls stating that he would be killed. BARTASIUS stated that he has no proof to "back up this feeling," but it is his opinion that VINCENT SURWA, who resides at 200 Fernon Street, Philadelphia, holds a grudge against his father-in-law because of some altercation which occurred some time ago. He stated that they have not been friends since. BARTASIUS advised that SURWA is the type of person to hold a grudge for a long time, plus he knows the area of Lithuania that his father-in-law is from. He added that the above-mentioned Lithuanian language newspaper article concerning his father-in-law stated that a letter was mailed from the United States to a certain post office in Lithuania which SURWA knows to be IMPULSVICIUS' home town. He stated that this letter also mentioned SURWA and that he "got a raw deal."

BARTASIUS stated based on the above information which he developed that he has reached the conclusion that SURWA is a very likely person to originate and instigate all the derogatory information concerning IMPULSVICIUS.

On October 24, 1962, Mr. ROBERT MC MURTRIE, 236 Morris Street, Philadelphia, advised the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, that IMPULSVICIUS and his family had been receiving threatening phone calls during the past several days. He advised that the caller stated he was going to kill "ANTANAS IMPULSVICIUS this week."

MC MURTRIE stated it was his belief these telephone calls were made locally.

The September 21, 1962, edition of the "Tysonian-Etampain," a daily Finnish language newspaper, a characterization of which appears in the Appendix heretofore, reflects an article written in the Finnish language which when translated into the English language reads substantially as follows:

"240 WAR CRIMINALS TO COURT IN THE SOVIET

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"LITHUANIANS.....among them in absentia Antanas Impuljavicius, presently hiding in Philadelphia, Pa. He is accused of murdering, being the commander of the special punishment detachment, 21,500 in Lithuania in 1941, and 5,000 in the City of Slutsk in White Russia, Oct. 28-29, '41. Although Russia had demanded the release of Impuljavicius to be put on trial, 'the U. S. government has not complied.' The murder of about 50,000 persons will be discussed in the trials to come."

The September 23, 1962, edition of "The Morning Freiheit," a Yiddish daily newspaper, a characterization of which appears in the Appendix hereto, reflects an article in the English language entitled, "SOVIET GOVERNMENT DEMANDS: Minsk Nazi Hangman Now in U. S. Must Stand Trial for His Crimes." This article reflects in part as follows:

"Look at this photograph taken on one of the streets of the Capitol of White Russia-- Minsk. This group of innocent victims was dragged out of the prison in Minsk and hanged, then came the next group and then another one.

"Who are these martyrs whose names are unknown? But one thing is well known and that is, that among the fascist executioners in this case was the Lithuanian Yuozas Knirimas, commander of the company of the 2nd battalion. ...

"Here is what Knirimas had to say during his trial:

"In the fall of 1941 I took part in the hanging of Soviet Partisans. The battalion commander Vimpuljavitchius led a group of partisans out of the Minsk prison and hanged them in the City Park. We hanged them on telegraph poles and all over. I hanged one girl with my own hands...."

"Another executioner Zenonas Kamsura relates his experience of the same 'action':

ANTANAS LEBYKAS IMPULSIVICIUS

"It was Yimpulavitchius who gave the orders to murder Soviet Partisans and peaceful citizens. . . Yimpulavitchius personally ordered the formation of companies for the hanging operation of Soviet Partisans in Minsk. . ."

"The name Yimpulavitchius appears in the testimonies of many a captured Hitler criminal. At the time when Kovno was captured by the Nazi hordes, Yimpulavitchius became lieutenant commander of the battalion which carried out savage operations on peaceful Soviet citizens and exterminations of many Jewish people at the forts of the Kovno fortress. For these and similar 'successful' operations, Yimpulavitchius was promoted soon to Commander and became the right hand of the war criminal Franz Leebhauser.

"This battalion slaughtered masses of peaceful citizens and war prisoners in Minsk, Borisov, Slutsk, Kletsk, Gerginsk, Miesvige and other cities and towns in White Russia. . ."

"Some of the documents left behind by the fleeing Nazi army testify to their bloody affairs. General Yedko of a SS Brigade, in his report to the Reichscomissar Lase' as follows:

"On the 14th of October 1941, in the town of Smolovits, two companies made a raid of Jews, Communists and other enemy elements and 1,300 were annihilated. . . In Jagolish partisans and one communist were shot to death. . . In Plehshtenites, 52 Jews and 2 partisans. . . In Minsk, 625 communists were liquidated. . . On the 18th of October, in a raid on civilian prisoners camp, 1,150 communists were liquidated. . ."

"Another such document relates:

"In accordance with the orders issued. . . It is known that 46 thousands have already been shot and killed and over 10,000 were hanged."

ANTANAS LUDVIKAS YIMPULIAVITCHIUS

"After the downfall of the Nazis, Yimpuliavitchius has disappeared.

"Recently, however, the following letter from the U.S.A. was received by the militia of the town of Vilkovishku:

"The former major of the military headquarters, Antanas Yimpuliavitchius, lives now with his entire family in the United States of America, in Philadelphia 47, at 304 Gross Street. During the war he collaborated with the Nazis . . . Yimpuliavitchius is an executive board member of various organizations 'For the Liberation of Lithuania.' . . .

"The government of the USSR states the note, 'hopes that the government of the U.S. will take the proper steps for the speedy extradition to the Soviet Union of the war-criminal Antanas Ludvikas Yimpuliavitchius, who was responsible for bloody murders and crimes to humanity.' . . ."

The September 1960 edition of the "Jewish Currents" magazine, a characterization of which appears in the Appendix hereto, reflects an article, "Issues and Events," which reads in part as follows:

"After Eichmann

"All humanity is indebted to Israel for its severe and eminently fair trial and expeditious execution of Eichmann May 31. This act underlines the responsibility mankind still faces to make the world 'Nazi-free.' The impact of the revelations at the trial--including the naming there of innumerable Nazis who share Eichmann's guilt in destroying six million Jews and millions of other people will be dissipated unless a new tide is moved to inundate the Nazis that still infest public life, primarily in West Germany but also in many other

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"countries, including our own. . . .

"But while there is needed unflagging insistence that in West Germany Nazis be removed from positions of influence in the judicial apparatus, in education, in public office and in the armed forces, there are convicted Nazis criminals hiding in the U. S. A. . . . who should be extradited to serve their sentences or to stand trial. A partial list includes: . . . Anastas Ludvikas Impulavicius, Lithuanian fascist and mass murderer of Jews, now in Philadelphia and wanted by the Soviet Union. . . .

"Why should these Nazis not be deported and extradited to stand trial and be brought to justice?"

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is the property of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

STANAS LUDVICKAS IMPULEVICIUS

A P P E N D I X

CHARACTERIZATIONS OF ORGANIZATIONS

Tyodes-Rteempain

A confidential source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on May 6, 1953, that the "Tyodes-Rteempain" is a Communist Party line, Finnish language newspaper published daily at Superior, Wisconsin.

(1)

ANTANAS LEBKIVAS DOPULAVICIUS

MORNING FREIHEIT

The "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications", revised and published as of December 1, 1961 by the Committee on Un-American Activities, U. S. House of Representatives, documents the publication "Morning Freiheit" as follows:

"The Communist International 'subsidized * * * the founding of the CPUSA's newspaper, Freiheit."

(Subversive Activities Control Board, Docket No. 51-101, Modified Report with respect to the Communist Party of the United States of America, December 18, 1956, p. 159.)

"A Communist Yiddish daily."

(Attorney General Francis Biddle, Congressional Record, September 24, 1942, p. 7686.)

"The Freiheit has been one of the rankest organs of Communist propaganda in this country for almost a quarter of a century."

(Special Committee on Un-American Activities, House Report 1311 on the CIO Political Action Committee, March 29, 1944, p. 75.)

ANTANAS LUDVIKAS EMPULEVICIUS

"JEWISH CURRENTS"
Formerly known as "Jewish Life"

"Jewish Life" for October 1957, announced that after the October issue, and with the next issue to be published in January 1958, the magazine was changing its name to "Jewish Currents," because of the claim to the name "Jewish Life" by the magazine "Orthodox Jewish Life."

The May 1961 issue reported that "Jewish Currents" is published by Jewish Currents, Inc., Room 601, 22 East 17th Street, New York City.

Concerning "Jewish Life," the Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications, dated January 2, 1957, and prepared by the Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, stated:

- "(1) Cited as a Communist front which first appeared in November 1946, as a monthly published by the Morning Freiheit Association, publishers of the Yiddish Communist daily, 'Morning Freiheit'..... The first issue contained this announcement of policy: 'Jewish Life dedicates itself to strengthening the friendship of the Jewish people with the Soviet Union.....'

'Committee on Un-American Activities, Report, Trial by Treason: The National Committee to Secure Justice for the Rosenbergs and Morton Sobell,' August 25, 1956, p. 93.)"